

Lower Makefield Township Historical Commission Meeting

July 12, 2023

Attendees (in person):

- Joe Camaratta, Historical Commission (remote)
- Helen Heinz, Historical Commission
- Thomas Argentieri, Historical Commission
- Chris Greeley, Historical Commission
- Victor Fiori, Historical Commission
- Lisa Pellegrino, Historical Commission
- Mitch Palin, Historical Commission
- Jeff Bedser, Historical Commission
- Cathy Hanville, Historical Commission
- Jim Sachs, Historical Commission
- John Lewis, Board of Supervisors
- Monica Hinden, Volunteer

Absent

- None

Agenda

Existing Business (7:51p start)

- June minutes approval postponed to September meeting (sent late)
- **Slate Hill Cleanup**
 - We have done at least a dozen or so gravestones. We need to order more solution for cleaning grave stones. It is very hot out so going to wait until it is cooler outside (maybe August or September). Tom will send out a notice when it gets cooler. It takes about an hour. Stones seem to be getting brighter with time.
 - **Mini-grant.** Tom and Monica have been working on it. It has a \$7,500 budget cap and has a rolling deadline. The idea is to get the information we have on the cemetery and the people who are buried there decimated to the public.
 - Monica suggested that we could put QR codes next to the gravestones that would connect to the township website. The commission has 3 mandates - preservation, archiving information and education. This hits two of those really squarely. It is a way to get the information in an efficient way to the citizens, but is interactive and gets them into the cemetery. Once people step into that cemetery, they'll have a greater appreciation. We are going to have to figure out ways to announcing this is out there.
 - There is a Facebook Group and a lot of people are on that. Monica may start an Instagram Account for it too. The budget is around \$6,500 - most of it is paying for the webpage development folks. We have a quote - the guidelines require 3. So we are working on the other 2. The CLG grant will not pay for supplies and materials. The QR codes and ground stakes, etc - that'll come out of the township's 25% match. Monica wants to get some meetings together with Helen and Cathy to start going through these stories. There are property research files and other files with stories from other commission members. We'll talk about who the first 25 are at the September meeting.

- **Tree Service Quotes**
 - Three trees they are suggesting removing - a pine tree in the back, a cherry tree in the back and the locust in the center. Tom's concern over taking down the locust tree in the center if it can be topped and saved. Joe going to get back to Derek - we are comfortable with the first proposal (\$4,500) and the other one we want to see if we can make the tree safe short of taking it down.
 - We want certified arborist - Cathy may have someone. Plan is to get a second opinion on that - Cathy is going to take the lead on that. Joe to reach out to Derek and ask Rick to provide an alternative. We want to be there when they're doing the work.
- **HARC Grant**
 - Working toward an August 1 deadline.
 - If we combine with the Historic Society for this one, we'll need to prepare a statement of work.
- **Ad Hoc Property Committee**
 - About number of people from the HC attended in person meeting. A lot of people showed up and they were positive. Dennis did a good job of introducing the committee and goals and objectives. It is a farm and will stay a farm.
 - The vast majority of the farm has a deed restriction from 2018 which limits what can be done to strictly agricultural purposes (John) - some Township uses wouldn't be permitted. Leaf collection isn't. A small portion of the land is not deed restricted. Lead paint issues and soil issues around the house (safety element) will limit/dictate the eventual use of it.
 - There were a number of comment cards that were scanned. There is a summary document that Joe walked us through. Status quo is undesired by the community members. Two thirds of the suggestions were for mixed use with agriculture and something else, and one third is farming only.
 - At the next meeting the committee will go over more concrete suggestions
 - Looking at the farm from a historical and preservation perspective. They haven't looked at them as historical building, so tomorrow's meeting will talk about preservation. That'll have an impact on their potential uses. Powers will be presenting tomorrow along with Doug.
- **Certified Local Government Training Topics**
 - Postpone to September

New Business

- **Ghost Tour**
 - Helen passing around a signup.
 - We ask people to dress up in various garb - doesn't have to be Civil War soldiers (or a relative to tell their tale). We have to plan which way we will bring people in and last time we had huge groups of 20-30 with one of us giving tours and leading them through and trying to keep them from tripping. We have a lantern and then people are spotlighted on a tombstone or a section and give their speech. We have 14 or 15 tombs. We also had wandering ghosts. It was a donation only thing. We made \$4,000. Educational experience.
 - Theme is Civil War
 - Usually did it the weekend before Halloween - Oct 21/22 or Oct 28 - right before we'll lose people. Oct 21/22 are the preferred dates for 2023. Helen to ask Krista about the scripts.
 - Date for first meeting around August 15 - at the LMT building. Helen is checking. Tuesday evening or if not Helen will host. At 7pm.

- **Point Walkthrough**
 - No information on it and the HARB meeting on Tuesday was cancelled.
 - The walkthrough happened on July 5. Helen needs to connect for the walkthrough.
 - Joe will send around our letter on the Point
- No August Meeting
- Wed Sep 13 next meeting.

Adjourned at 930